


Q THE LITTLE QUIZ BOOK



If you lived on Mercury and placed
a pan of biscuits in the sun, would the
biscuits bake?

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THE LITTLE QUIZ BOOK



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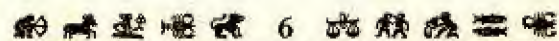
PRESS, INC.

The
Little Quiz
Book



Is the honey-bee native to America, and where does it carry the pollen it takes from flowers?

☞ The bee was brought to New England in 1638 by colonists who needed honey for sweetening. The bee carries the pollen in a pollen basket located under the hind leg.



If the age of the universe could be said to be one year, how long has Man lived in it?

☞ Fifteen minutes.

Can the salt content of human tears vary in happiness and sorrow?

☞ Yes. Tears of real sorrow are much saltier than tears of joy.

Where and when was George Washington inaugurated first president of our country?

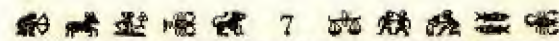
☞ On the balcony of the old Federal Building located at Broad and Wall Streets in lower Manhattan in New York City. His inauguration took place April 30, 1789.

If your legs were as long in proportion to your body as the legs of a daddy-long-legs are to his, how long would your legs be?

☞ About forty feet.

What metals go to make up brass and bronze?

☞ Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc; bronze of copper and tin.



What was the name of Lindbergh's plane used on the first non-stop solo flight over the Atlantic? The date?

☞ The Spirit of St. Louis. 1927.

If you were going by boat from New York to Manila, and were searching for the shortest route would you go via the Panama or the Suez Canal?

☞ Take your choice! The distance via Panama is 13,289 miles, and via Suez, 13,288 miles.

What were the Seven Wonders of the ancient world?

☞ The Pyramids of Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Pharos of Alexandria.

There should be one comma in the title of the Christmas Carol "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." After which word should it be placed?

☞ The comma should go after "Merry." "God rest ye merry" was a common greeting in early England.

Who was Sir Galahad?

In the Legend of King Arthur, Sir Galahad was the noblest knight of King Arthur's Round Table. He was the leader in the search for the Holy Grail — the cup from which Christ was supposed to have drunk during the Last Supper.

Is a starfish really a fish?

No. A starfish is a sea animal (Phylum Echinodermata) but is called a fish because it lives in the sea.

How many ways can you change a dollar, using only the common coins: halves, quarters, dimes, nickels and cents?

There are 293 different ways. See how many you can figure out.

Where is the Irish Sea located?

It is the body of water between England and Ireland. Actually it is part of the Atlantic Ocean.

How many years did it take to build the Brooklyn Bridge?

It took fourteen years to complete.



Who was the first President to travel under water in a submerged submarine?

President Harry S. Truman, off the coast of Key West, Florida, in a captured German submarine (U-2513) on November 21, 1946.

In which direction does the earth rotate on its axis?

☞ Toward the East — which is why dawn in San Francisco is several hours later than in New York. When New York has been turned on the earth's surface far enough to see the sun, San Francisco is still dark. After New York, cities would be rotated Eastward to see the sun in the following order: Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco.

How does a bird fly?

☞ A bird flies by pressing down upon the air with its wings. In this way it lifts itself up.

What caterpillar feeds upon the milkweed-plant?

☞ The monarch caterpillar.

What is the boiling point of water?

☞ At sea-level water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit or 100 degrees Centigrade. On mountain-tops, where the air pressure is lower, the boiling point is lower. Thus at the top of Mount Blanc, the highest peak in Europe, water boils at 185 degrees Fahrenheit. If we could get an equal distance *below* sea-level, we would find the air-pressure higher, and the boiling point higher.

What bird in this country does a sun dance, and can be seen dancing if one gets up at daybreak to watch?

☞ The domesticated turkey. Both male and female perform curious high-stepping awkward up-and-down jumps, varied by forward spring-like movements and interrupted by strutting and hopping and singing, very early in the morning.

Who invented bifocal glasses?

☞ Benjamin Franklin. He made a pair of glasses to suit his eyes and to save the trouble of changing his glasses when looking from close-up objects to distant ones.

Where was Christopher Columbus born?

☞ In Genoa, Italy — a seaport famous even under Roman rule. The birthplace of Columbus still stands there amid towering modern structures.

Where is the largest bell in the world located?

☞ In Moscow. It weighs 219 tons. But unfortunately it has never rung, for while in process of casting, a large piece broke away.

Who wrote the words to our patriotic hymn "America"?

☞ Samuel Francis Smith, a student at Andover Theological Seminary. He wrote the words to a German tune he later discovered was also the tune of the British national anthem, *God Save the King*.

What is the brightest star we can see from Earth?

☞ Sirius, the Dog Star, in the constellation Canus Major, the Great Dog.

Who named the month of August?

☞ Augustus Caesar, the emperor who reigned after Julius Caesar's death.

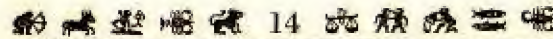
What is the difference between a hurricane, a typhoon, a tornado and a cyclone?

☞ The only real difference is in the names, which vary with the places these storms occur: a hurricane is a West-Indian storm, a typhoon is a Far-Eastern storm, and a cyclone is an Indian-Ocean storm. The tornado is a popular name for such a storm in the United States. All these storms tend to have a rotating motion. Waterspouts and dust funnels rise in the spinning centers of parts of the storm.



How do hailstones form?

☞ Hailstones are formed when raindrops are blown *upward* in the sky into colder moist air layers, where they freeze and get larger. They sometimes add several layers of ice when they are blown upward several times before they finally fall.



How often do high tides occur?

☞ High tides occur twice a day at approximately every twelve hours and twenty-five minutes.

How fast did the first elevated trains in New York City run?

☞ Twelve to fifteen miles per hour.

What is "The Blue Boy"?

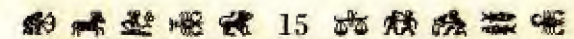
☞ It is a famous portrait by Thomas Gainsborough, the English eighteenth-century artist. The "Blue Boy" was sold to an American collector for \$800,000 and is now on display in the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, California. The popular title comes from the blue silk suit the boy is wearing.

Who was the first Major League baseball player to pitch two successive no-hit, no-run games in a season?

☞ Johnny Vander Meer of the Cincinnati "Reds" on June 10, 1938, and June 15, 1938.

What hockey teams played in the first game to be telecast?

☞ "The New York Rangers" and "Les Canadiens" at Madison Square Garden.



Why is the Class of 1915 at West Point famous?

☞ Because among others, Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Omar Bradley were graduated then.

Who perfected the first steamboat?

☞ Robert Fulton, in 1807, completed the *Clermont*, the first commercially successful American steamboat.

What does the distress signal SOS stand for?

☞ SOS does not stand for anything. It is merely a combination of letters easily transmitted and received by wireless.

Which gland in the human body is comparable to a thermostat in a household heating system?

☞ The thyroid gland, a small, spongy gland, which straddles the windpipe just below the larynx.

Which species in the animal kingdom has the largest brain in proportion to its size?

☞ The ant.

Can furniture make noise at night?

Yes. Furniture, and houses too, make creaking noises as the wood in them expands or contracts with changes of temperature and moisture. These noises take place by day as well as by night — but since most other noises are hushed then, we hear the wood noises more at night.

How many humps has the Dromedary Camel?

The true Dromedary Camel has only one hump and is a riding or racing camel.

Are eyebrows useless physiologically?

No. They keep perspiration from running into the eyes from the brow, and thus blurring vision.

What is the origin of the word “dollar” and the dollar sign?

The S in the dollar sign is a corruption of the figure 8, from the Spanish “piece of eight” which had a value of eight smaller coins. The parallel lines represent the Pillar of Hercules, or passageway between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. “Dollar” derives from “thaler,” a coin equivalent to a piece of eight but coming from Joachimsthaler, a silver-mining town in Bohemia.



What men on the continent of North America have eaten skunk and called it a delicacy?

Potawatomie Indians. They lived along the Paw Paw River on territory which is now the State of Michigan.

There are only three common words in English ending in "cion." What are they?

☞ Suspicion, Coercion, Scion.

Who formed the first mail order company in the United States?

☞ Aaron Montgomery Ward in 1872, at 825 N. Clark Street in Chicago with a capital of \$2400.

At which of our four seasons in the United States is the sun nearest the earth?

☞ The sun is nearest the earth in our winter season. It gives us less heat then because the Northern Hemisphere is turned away from the sun, and the rays come down slantwise. Thus the sun seems lower in the sky, and its rays less direct (and hot) than in our summer.

What is Asbestos?

☞ Asbestos is a mineral, fibrous in form, found in Canada and Africa. It is remarkable in its resistance to heat and acids.

Do insects have brains?

☞ Yes. Most insects have two-part brains.

In what country did the breed of dachshunds originate?

☞ Not in Germany as one might expect, but in Egypt, more than four thousand years ago.

What is Braille?

☞ Braille is a system of raised dots punched into special Braille paper. The dots form symbols which blind persons can feel with their finger tips, and thus read.

In World War I, who said to the French people, "Lafayette, we are here!"?

☞ This was not said by General Pershing. It was included in a speech at Lafayette's tomb, delivered by Charles E. Stanton, Chief Disbursing Officer of the AEF.

Is it true that mosquitoes prefer blondes to brunettes?

☞ Yes, the skin of most blondes is less resistant.

Do sheep make any particular sound to warn the flock of danger?

☞ No. Sheep are silent when danger is near. They ordinarily maintain a constant gentle bleating to keep each other informed of their whereabouts.

What is the common ancestor of all flowers?

☞ The lowly buttercup.

Where does chocolate come from?

☞ Chocolate is made by grinding the kernels of the seeds of the cacao tree which grows in South America, the West Indies and on the Gold Coast of Africa.

Can a flying squirrel really fly?

☞ Not really. It cannot fly upward at all, but it can glide to a lower level with some control.

If you were talking to the President of the United States, how would you properly address him?

☞ Mr. President.

Who invented the first air-brake?

☞ George Westinghouse, Jr., of Schenectady, New York, in 1869.

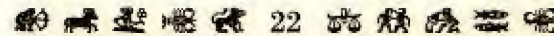
When did the first taxicab appear on the streets of New York City?

☞ In 1897. It was electric and manufactured by the Electric Vehicle Company.



By how many different nationalities has Texas been claimed?

☞ In the days of early European exploration, part of Texas was claimed by France. Then it became successively Spanish, Mexican, an independent Republic, one of the United States (1845), one of the Confederate States of America, and — after the Civil War — again an acknowledged State of the United States.



If both the President and the Vice-President of the United States are incapacitated, who becomes head of the government?

☞ Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Who first discovered the working of the human heart, and the circulation of the blood?

☞ Dr. William Harvey, in 1628.

Do boats *without* motors have the right of way over boats *with* outboard motors?

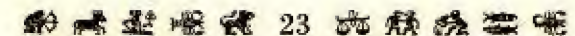
☞ Yes. This is the rule of the waterways.

Can a chipmunk climb a tree?

☞ Yes. A chipmunk has been seen on an upper branch of an oak tree, hanging on for dear life and proceeding with extreme caution as he seizes an acorn and stuffs it into his cheek pouch.

What is the name of the one state in the United States that has only one syllable?

☞ Maine.



What is a flock of geese called?

☞ A flock of geese is known as a "gaggle" on the ground, and a "skein" when the geese take to the air.

Which planet is nearest the sun?

☞ Mercury is nearest the sun. Pluto is the planet farthest away.

In what country near Panama was a canal started and abandoned?

☞ Nicaragua.

Where does the word "picayune" derive from?

☞ It derives from the tiny former United States coin worth half a dime, and therefore has come to mean "petty."

Why does wood float, and stone or iron sink, in water?

☞ Materials float on water if their specific gravity is less than that of water — that is, if one cubic inch of the material weighs less than one cubic inch of water. Wood weighs less than water, per cubic inch; therefore it floats. Stone and iron weigh more than water, per cubic inch; therefore they sink.

What does the word “carat” mean?

☞ In gold it is an index of purity. Pure gold is called 24-carat. But pure gold is too soft for practical use, so it is alloyed with a harder metal, usually copper. An alloy of eighteen parts gold and six of copper is called 18-carat. In diamonds, a carat represents a weight of two hundred milligrams. The name derives from a bean or pea shell, the Italian *caroto*.

To whom did faithful Old Dog Tray belong?

☞ Old Dog Tray belonged to Stephen Foster — the beloved composer of American folk songs.

What is a sponge: animal, vegetable or mineral?

☞ The sponge is an animal. What we use as a sponge is really the skeleton of the animal.

How hot is the sun?

☞ The temperature at the flaming surface is estimated at 11,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Inside the sun it is far hotter — perhaps 40,000,000 degrees. At these intense heats atoms break down and convert into other atoms — exactly as in atomic or fission bombs — releasing new vast quantities of heat as they do so.



Who brought bowling to America?

☞ The Dutch, who called the game “Skittles.” They brought bowling with them to New Amsterdam (now New York City).

What is the speed of sound?

☞ In dry air, at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, sound travels 1,087 feet a second. In carbon dioxide, at the same temperature, sound travels 856 feet a second; in hydrogen, 4,163 feet; in steel, 16,400; in glass, 18,000; in water, at 48 degrees Fahrenheit, 4,708 feet.

Upon whose death were these words said: "Now he belongs to the ages"?

☞ Upon the death of Abraham Lincoln, by Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War.

What did the Greeks call the Goddess Venus?

☞ Aphrodite, and worshiped her as the Goddess of Beauty and Love.

What is the meaning of "Mardi Gras Carnival"?

☞ *Mardi* is Tuesday, *Gras* is fat. Shrove Tuesday is a feasting day, called Fat Tuesday, before the fasting starts on Ash Wednesday. Carnival means "farewell to meat" from *Carnis*: meat, and *vale*: farewell.

What bird is as native to America as the American Indian?

☞ The wild turkey.

What were some of the scientific achievements of Louis Pasteur, 1822-1895?

☞ He discovered the cause of souring of wine, and solved the problem of silkworm disease — both important to French industry. He was a major contributor to antisepsis in surgery. His work with bacteria led to the pasteurization of milk. He developed vaccine against rabies.

What is our national anthem; who is its author; and when was it written?

☞ The "Star-Spangled Banner", written by Francis Scott Key, in 1814.

Was the song "Yankee Doodle" first sung by Revolutionary soldiers?

☞ No, by British soldiers, who first sang it to the Colonists in a fun-poking way. It was when the Continental soldiers had the British in retreat from Lexington to Concord that the Yankees took up the song "Yankee Doodle" and sang it back to the British. From that time on "Yankee Doodle" has been traditionally American.

When was Julius Caesar assassinated?

☞ 44 B.C.

Which of the following correctly describes the abbreviated form "Xmas"?
 a, An irreverent, commercialized form;
 b, An ancient, reverent form; c, A space-saving form originally invented by headline writers.

☞ "Xmas" is a reverent form originating in the early Greek church. "Chi (X)" is the first letter of Christ's name in Greek, and it was frequently used as a holy symbol.

What causes seashore breezes?

☞ They are caused by the fact that the land changes temperature with the changes from sunshine to dark and back again, while the sea changes very slightly except over long seasonal periods. As the land warms up in the sun, the warmed air over it rises, and the cool air over the sea rushes in. In the evening the land cools rapidly, while the sea air remains relatively warm, and the process is reversed.

What planet has rings around it?

☞ Saturn's three rings are unique in our solar system. No other planet has anything like them. The rings are really made up of tiny particles that were once pieces of moons. These particles move about Saturn at great speed and look like rings of gauze.



Is the Black Forest in Germany really black?

☞ No. The Black Forest is a mountain range so thickly overgrown with trees that it is called a forest rather than a mountain. In the German fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel lived on the edge of a wood which could have been the Black Forest.

For what crime was Captain Kidd hanged?

☞ Captain Kidd was hanged for murder. He hit one of his seamen over the head with a bucket and killed him. The charge of piracy was never proved.

From what animals do we get beef, mutton, pork, and venison?

☞ Beef is obtained from cattle, mutton from sheep, pork from pigs, and venison from deer.

Which President of the United States was elected with the lowest percentage of votes cast?

☞ Abraham Lincoln, with a popular vote of 39.9% of the total votes cast. His electoral votes totaled 59.4%.

Does a fly in an automobile move faster than the automobile?

☞ Relative to the earth, he moves faster when he is flying forward in a moving car, and slower when he is flying backward. The earth is moving too (from West to East); so in a car driving East, the car is moving faster than the earth, and the fly, if he is going forward, faster than car or earth.

To whom is the water in the Ganges River sacred?

☞ To the members of the Hindu religion. Many Hindus believe that he who drinks Ganges water just before his death does not have to return to this world and start another life. Hindus keep a vessel filled with Ganges water to be drunk at the hour of death.

Who invented the first watch?

☞ Peter Hale, a locksmith living in Nuremberg, Germany, is supposed to have been the first watchmaker. His watches were egg-shaped and were called "Nuremberg eggs."

When did baseball originate?

☞ Abner Doubleday is credited with originating the playing rules of baseball. He laid out the first baseball diamond in Cooperstown, N. Y., in 1839.

What is a balanced diet?

☞ A balanced diet is one which includes some of the following every day: 1. Milk, or milk products. 2. Citrus fruits, tomatoes, or raw salad greens. 3. Green or yellow vegetables. 4. Other vegetables or fruits, including potatoes. 5. Bread or cereal. 6. Meat, fish, or poultry. 7. Eggs (three or four a week).

What is a shooting star?

☞ A shooting star is a meteor which comes into the earth's atmosphere, and is set on fire from friction against that atmosphere — for the meteor is traveling at great speed. Such meteors usually burn themselves away before striking the earth. Meteors are stony or metallic, are usually very small, and are believed to be fragments of comets.

What is an Irish brogue?

☞ Used to refer to the Irish intonation of speech, it is actually a shoe.

Can a daddy-long-legs grow new legs if a leg becomes damaged?

☞ Yes. He has the power to grow new legs. That is why we often see daddy-long-legs with one or more legs half-grown.

What is the oldest city in America?

☞ St. Augustine, Florida, which was settled September, 1565, by Don Pedro Menendez.

When did Washington, D. C., become the capital of the United States?

☞ In 1799, during John Adams' administration.



What was Paul Revere's trade?

☞ He was Boston's leading silversmith and goldsmith, whose pieces are in great demand as collectors' items. He also practiced dentistry.

What is the oldest newspaper in the United States?

☞ The *Hartford Courant* (*Connecticut Courant*). It is by thirty years the oldest newspaper in continuous circulation in the United States.

Four states remained neutral in the Civil War. Which were they?

☞ Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware.

What state in the United States leads in the growing of cherries?

☞ Michigan — growing eight thousand tons of cherries per year.

How long can a whale stay under water?

☞ Twenty minutes. Although whales live in water, they are mammals, not fish.

Who was the first to band a bird for the purpose of learning its habits?

☞ John James Audubon first used silver wire to band a flock of phoebes. He banded them at Mill Grove Farm near Philadelphia. Two banded phoebes returned to Audubon.

If you are sixteen years old on Earth, how old would you be on planet Mars?

☞ Eight years old, because Mars takes twice as long to go around the sun as Earth to make the same trip — and one trip around the sun is called one year.

What was the name of the first organized baseball team?

☞ The Knickerbocker Club of New York City, organized in 1845 by a man named Joy Cartwright.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the Swedish inventor, donated a large fortune to the establishment of a Prize for Peace, as well as other prizes. From what invention did his fortune derive?

☞ From the invention of dynamite.

What is a decalcomania?

☞ A decorative picture or design printed on specially prepared paper that can be transferred to wood, glass, china, etc.

Who was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

☞ John Jay, 1789-1795.

When does a cowboy call a horse a bronco?

☞ Before the horse has been tamed or broken.

What is the largest lake in the world?

☞ Lake Superior, in the United States and Canada, with an approximate area of 31,810 square miles.

How many words are there in the English language?

☞ Approximately 300,000.

If you lived at the equator, at what speed would you rotate with the earth on its axis?

☞ At seventeen and one-quarter miles per minute, but since the earth and its atmosphere would be moving with you, you would not be aware of motion. This motion does, however, cause the prevailing trade winds most noticeable in the lower latitudes.

When was the first five-hundred-mile speedway race held?

☞ On Memorial Day, 1911. It was won by Roy Harrown at 74.59 miles per hour.



Where was the first regularly operated helicopter mail route established?

☞ In Los Angeles, California — October 1, 1947.

Who is credited with establishing the English language?

☞ Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?-1400) in his story-poem "The Canterbury Tales." All other dialects in common use in England disappeared after Chaucer.

Which president of the United States was impeached?

☞ Andrew Johnson, in 1868, was impeached and acquitted. Impeachment means trial by a legislature.

When did Daylight Saving Time start in the United States?

☞ On Easter Sunday, March 31, 1918, when clocks were set ahead one hour.

What are tides?

☞ Tides are the alternate rising and falling of water in oceans and other large bodies of water caused by the gravitational pull of the moon, and to a lesser extent of other planets and stars.

Is water hotter before it boils, or after?

☞ Before. As soon as it boils, some heat is released.

Which language is spoken by the greatest number of the earth's inhabitants?

☞ Chinese, spoken by approximately 650 million people.

What is the highest peak in North America?

☞ Mount McKinley in Alaska. It is 20,300 feet high.

Of what value are spiders?

☞ They destroy countless millions of noxious insects each year, — flies, mosquitoes, bugs, and grasshoppers.

What President first pitched a ball to open the baseball season?

☞ William Howard Taft on April 14, 1910. He threw the baseball which opened the American League Washington-Phillie game.

Can a fly hear noises?

☞ No. Some insects can hear, but a fly is not one of them.

How many toes has a horse on each foot?

☞ One. The hoof is really the horse's toenail.

How long does it take the earth to make one complete revolution on its imaginary axis?

☞ Twenty-three hours, 56 minutes and 4.1 seconds.

Where is the Prime Meridian?

☞ At the Greenwich Observatory, located since 1946 in Sussex, where the light of London can not interfere with observations. Maps of all countries show the longitude east or west of Greenwich which stands on zero degree.

What is the fastest running animal?

☞ The cheetah, clocked at seventy miles per hour.

What can all the substances alcohol, formalin, salt, sugar and vinegar be used for?

☞ They are all used to preserve things.

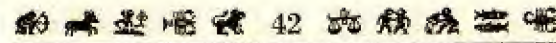
Where was the first organized baseball game held?

☞ At Hoboken, N. J., on June 19, 1846, between the Knickerbocker Club and the New York Baseball Club. Score 23 to 1 in favor of the New York Baseball Club.



If you lived on Mercury and placed a pan of biscuits in the sun, would the biscuits bake?

☞ Yes. They would not only bake but burn. Mercury is the planet nearest the sun. On it the sun's rays are seven times as hot as on earth.



Where was the first bottle blown in America?

☞ In the woods near Jamestown, Va., in 1609, eleven years before the Pilgrims landed.

How fast is Earth traveling in its orbit around the sun?

☞ Nearly nineteen miles per second.

What language did Jesus speak?

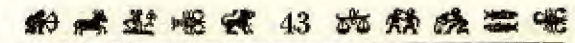
☞ Jesus spoke in one of the Aramaic languages, of which there were numerous variations.

What is the name of the first atom-powered U. S. submarine?

☞ The U. S. S. Nautilus which was launched at Groton, Conn., on January 17, 1955, for her first test at sea.

How many sides does a honey-comb cell have?

☞ Six sides — changing from a hexagonal shape at the base of the cell to a three-faced pyramid. It is mathematically excellent for storing honey.



Is the newly-hatched crocodile larger or smaller than the egg from which it emerges?

☞ Three times as large.

What are Godey Prints?

☞ Godey Prints are printed pages from *Godey's Lady's Book*, the first magazine of women's fashions, published in the United States starting in 1830. Fashions for women and little girls were displayed in decorative settings.

How long do baby deer keep their white spots?

☞ From three to four and one-half months. Then the white spots disappear.

How large a part of the animal kingdom do insects comprise?

☞ Four-fifths.

The kissing of what famous stone was supposed to give one the power of pleasing speech?

☞ The Blarney Stone.

Who was the first President to occupy the White House?

☞ John Adams, in 1800.

In what foods can Vitamin A be found?

☞ In carrots, spinach, greens, sweet potatoes, milk, liver, fish-liver oils and egg yolks. This vitamin is essential for growing children and adults, and builds up resistance to infectious disease.

What is a snorkel?

☞ A snorkel is a ventilation device for submarines consisting of air intake and exhaust tubes. With a snorkel a submarine can remain submerged for long periods.

Which of the following articles are obtained from coal: aspirin, carbolic acid (or phenol), saccharin, aniline dyes, nylon?

☞ They are all products of coal.

What baseball team first received regular salaries for professional services?

☞ The Cincinnati "Red Stockings" as the "Cincinnati Reds" were called in 1869.



Can goats eat tin cans?

☞ No. They cannot. But goats will lick or chew anything made of minerals.

What is the slowest-moving creature on earth?

☞ The snail, with a traveling speed of one mile in three weeks.

How many quills has a porcupine?

☞ Approximately thirty thousand.

Can a giraffe make a sound?

☞ A giraffe has a poorly developed voice box which he seldom uses. Zoo attendants report that the giraffe has occasionally been heard to make a soft mooing sound, hardly audible.

For how many centuries did man have only honey from the bees to sweeten his food?

☞ Until the seventeenth century, honey was the sweetest substance known to man and was used exclusively for making food sweet.

Are the stripes of the zebra white or black?

☞ The stripes are white, and the background black. Zebras are descended from solid colored dark animals, and the white stripes are actually tufts of white hair.

What is isinglass?

☞ Not a form of glass, as many believe, but dried tissue of a sturgeon's swimming bladder. It is also the name given to sheets of mica.

How many zeroes are there in a billion?

☞ This varies. In the United States, Canada and France, there are nine zeroes, written thus: 1,000,000,000. In Great Britain and Germany a billion is a million million, and is written with 12 zeroes: 1,000,000,000,000.

Which is the highest mountain peak in the world, and how high is it?

☞ Mount Everest in the Himalayas is 29,141 feet high.

How were "witches" put to death in early Salem, Massachusetts?

☞ Nineteen "witches" were hanged and one crushed with rocks. None was burned.

How long did the Hundred Years' War actually last?

☞ One hundred and fourteen years, from 1339 to 1453.

Which bounces best: a wooden ball, a rubber ball or a steel ball?

☞ Steel balls bounce best, rubber balls next, and wooden balls last. Steel is a highly elastic substance — that is, it returns immediately to its former shape after being stretched or compressed — and this is what makes it bounce. A steel spring is efficient for the same reason.

How many words does an average educated man use?

☞ Between 3,000 and 5,000.

Who built the Brooklyn Bridge?

☞ John Roebling. It was the first great suspension bridge ever built.

What was the cost of World War II to the taxpayers of the United States?

☞ \$349,778,608,870. In round figures, 350 billion dollars.

Can you name three things from which sugar (not glucose) is obtained commercially?

☞ Sugar is obtained mainly from the maple tree, sugar-beet and the sugar-cane; also from palms and sorghum.

What is the meaning of "Eisenhower"?

☞ Iron-worker — or Smith.

Two candidates for President of the United States failed to be elected to office although they received the largest popular vote in the election. Who were they?

☞ Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, and Grover Cleveland in 1888.

Which French holiday is equivalent to our "Fourth of July"?

☞ Bastille Day, celebrated on July 14th.

How many Republican presidents have thus far served two full terms in the White House?

☞ Up through Lyndon Johnson's administration, only two. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ulysses S. Grant.

It has been found that the typical American reader reads too slowly for convenience and actual comprehension. About what is the average reading rate?

☞ Two hundred and fifty words a minute.

Is red, amber, or green the color at the top of an ordinary traffic light standard? Which color is at the bottom?

☞ Red is at the top, and green at the bottom.

Which Baseball League was formed first?

☞ The National League — on February 2, 1876. It consisted of eight baseball teams.

What is considered the most appalling sea disaster of all time; what was its date, and what was its cause?

☞ The sinking of the Titanic on April 14, 1912, caused by the scraping of the huge liner against the side of an iceberg. The loss was about 1500 lives.

What are the oldest and largest living things on the earth?

☞ The Sequoia trees of California. They grow more than three hundred feet high, and from fifteen to eighteen feet in diameter. They live to be more than one thousand years old.

If you were addressing the Pope orally, what would be the proper title?

☞ Most Holy Father — if you spoke English.

Does the lightning cause the thunder, or does the thunder cause the lightning?

☞ Neither is the cause of the other; thunder and lightning are both caused by the same thing — electrical disturbances in the atmosphere.

Did Niagara Falls ever stop falling?

☞ Yes, on the night of March 29, 1848, throwing the superstitious and religious into a near-panic. The explanation was that a heavy wind had started the Lake Erie ice field in motion, and tons of ice jammed the river's entrance near Buffalo, damming the river for almost thirty hours, till the ice shifted and the jam broke up.

Which was the first Southern state to secede from the Union in the Civil War?

☞ South Carolina, December 20, 1860.

Which is the healthier sex?

☞ The female sex. Women not only live on an average of five years longer than men, but their resistance to disease is considered stronger.

What happens to the wise old gander that is leading a flock of wild geese on a thousand-mile journey to the southland if the topography of the earth is hidden from view by a storm or fog?

☞ The leader is likely to become confused. He will guide his flock to earth, and resume the interrupted voyage when the atmosphere has cleared.

Who was Rip Van Winkle?

☞ A fictional character who slept for twenty years; he appears in Washington Irving's *Sketch Book*, first published in 1820.

How much would a ton of gold weigh at the earth's center?

☞ Nothing. Gravitational pull would be equal in all directions.

How does water put out fire?

☞ In two ways. 1. By covering the burning surface, so that oxygen is cut off from the flame—which needs oxygen to continue burning. 2. By cooling the burning surface (in taking the heat into itself, boiling, and turning into steam) below the combustion point of the burning material.



Judging by sales of equipment in sporting goods stores, which is the most popular sport in the United States?

☞ Fishing.

How many teeth has a horse?

☞ A female horse has thirty-six teeth, but a male horse has forty.

Can a giraffe see behind him without turning his head around?

☞ Yes. A giraffe has eyes that reflect what is going on behind him.

For how long a time can a book be copyrighted?

☞ For twenty-eight years, at the end of which time the copyright may be renewed for twenty-eight years more, making a total of fifty-six.

Can you keep a mackerel alive in a dishpanful of salt water?

☞ No. The mackerel will drown because he is forced to swim so slowly that the current produced by the movement of his gills would not provide sufficient oxygen for the fish to live.

What is the connection between cocoa, a cocoanut and cocaine?

☞ There is no connection except the accidental one that the words are pronounced in similar ways.

What planet was worshiped as the Goddess of Beauty by the Romans?

☞ The planet Venus.

What is Brass?

☞ It is an alloy of copper and zinc, harder and stronger than either of the metals from which it is made.

Which denomination of United States currency contains the names of twenty-six states on its face?

☞ The five-dollar bill, which features the Lincoln Memorial with twenty-six state names on its facade.

Is it true that a hen has no teeth?

☞ Yes. A hen doesn't need teeth, for her sharp beak enables her to seize her food; and she does not need to chew it since her gizzard does this for her after the food has been swallowed.

Who in the Old Testament is considered the ancestor of the Israelite nation?

☞ Abraham was the ancestor of the Israelite Nation. It is through his son, Isaac, that Israelite descent may be traced.

What is the Rosetta Stone?

☞ It is a slab found in Egypt by a French soldier in 1799, carved with a message in three different languages: Greek, ordinary old Egyptian, and the ancient picture-writing, or hieroglyphics, used by Egyptian priests. By working back from the Greek, Champollion was able to decipher the two “lost” Egyptian languages. The Rosetta Stone is now in the British Museum.

Who was the first President to pass through the Panama Canal?

☞ President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on his way to Hawaii in 1934.

What is the origin of the decimal system and counting by tens?

☞ The decimal system started when people counted on their ten fingers. In fact, the word “digit” means either a finger or one of the numerals.

Does the smoke from a train go backward?

☞ No. Assuming a still air, the smoke is carried in the direction the train is going, by its momentum. But the train travels much faster, so the smoke *seems* to pull away backward.

Who was Hermes?

☞ Hermes was the messenger of the Greek gods. He is pictured wearing winged sandals and helmet, and carrying a magic wand.

Does a Mexican Jumping Bean really jump?

☞ The bean doesn't jump, but inside the bean is a caterpillar that moves and stretches — and this makes the bean roll and tumble. A variety of gray moth lays an egg in the bean flower; when the flower develops into a bean, the caterpillar-larva is inside, and feeds on it — eating away the contents as it grows and needs more room.

What is a fathom?

☞ A fathom is a unit of measurement equal to six feet; it is used chiefly in measuring the depth of water.

What are the Primary Colors?

☞ In the spectrum, as seen in a rainbow, or in light that has passed through a prism, the primary colors are traditionally listed as violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red. In pigments like ink or paint, which are used to *reproduce* the natural colors of light, the primary colors are red, blue and yellow.

Did August always have thirty-one days?

☞ August originally had thirty days until Augustus Caesar decided it should have thirty-one days. He took one day from February to give the month of August as many days as July, named after his predecessor, Julius Caesar.

To what musical form does the anthem "My Country, 'tis of Thee" belong?
a, Tango; b, Slow march; c, Waltz; d, Fox Trot.

☞ Waltz.

What common small bird can fly backwards?

☞ The hummingbird. It suspends itself in mid-air while injecting its long bill into a flower in search of nectar. Then it backs away in flight.

What well-known actress was first to see her name on the marquee of a theater in neon lights?

☞ Marion Davies, playing the leading role in "Little Old New York" at the Cosmopolitan Theater in New York City in July, 1923.

Who wrote the words to the song "Auld Lang Syne"?

☞ The Scottish dialect poet, Robert Burns.

Which of the following substances does a plant depend on for almost 100 percent of its food? a, Rock; b, Air; c, Soil; d, Bacteria.

☞ A plant depends on the air for practically all its nourishment. It combines air with water by photosynthesis to manufacture its food. The soil provides only a trace of mineral foods.

There are two animals which never drink water. What are they?

☞ The llama and the gazelle.

When did the United States officially enter World War II?

☞ The United States Congress voted for war December 8, 1941, 470-1. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was on December 7th.

How much does a Texas ten-gallon hat actually hold?

☞ Three quarters of a gallon — just another Texas exaggeration!

Does the weather vane point in the direction of the wind?

☞ No. It points in the opposite direction.

There is only one kind of tissue in the human body which does not renew itself. What is it?

☞ The enamel of our teeth.

Against which British King did the American Colonists revolt?

☞ They revolted against King George III of England by the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776, thus starting the War of Independence.

What is another name for a woodchuck?

☞ A ground-hog.

What portion of the world's supply of coal is to be found in the United States?

☞ About half.

Which letters of the alphabet were formerly interchangeable?

☞ I and J; U and V.